

February 27, 2004

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

CDOT – Highway 101, Town House Motel Drainage Upgrade
(WDID No. 1A03216WNDN)

Del Norte County

On December 24, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Deborah Harmon on behalf of California Department of Transportation (hereinafter applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Highway 101, Town House Motel Drainage Upgrade project in Del Norte County. The application was deemed complete on January 16, 2004. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the state associated with an unnamed drainage ditch that drains directly to the Pacific Ocean in the Smith River Plain Hydrologic Subarea No.103.11.

The proposed project is located at the Town House Motel on the western side of Highway 101, south of Walton Street (DN 101-PM 25.75), in Crescent City, Del Norte County, California. The Town House Motel parking lot is sinking along the line of a failing storm-drain culvert that has separated joints. This project involves installation of a new culvert adjacent to the failing culvert. A section of the outlet end of the existing culvert will be removed so the new culvert will align with the existing drainage ditch. The remainder of the failing culvert will be plugged and abandoned in place. All work is to be conducted within the existing Caltrans right-of-way.

A plant survey was conducted at the outlet end of the drainage ditch. Vegetation in the ditch near the culvert outlet may be temporarily impacted during construction. No rock slope protection will be placed at the outlet and the remaining undisturbed plants are expected to revegetate the disturbed portion of the ditch. Fish may inhabit the ditch during the rainy season; however, the culvert and ditch will be dry at the time of construction. No special status plant species or sensitive biological resources will be disturbed by this project.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control. The project is estimated to begin in July or August 2004 and be completed by October 15, 2004.

The applicant has applied for authorization to perform the proposed water line installation under Nationwide Permits 3 and 33 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. The California Department of Transportation, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has

determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class 1-C, Section 15301). The California Department of Fish and Game determined that a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1601 Permit) is not required for this project based on potential impacts to the drainage ditch.

Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801, or at pratd@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.